

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Department of Employment Services



MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

DR. UNIQUE MORRIS-HUGHES  
DIRECTOR

### YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAAC)

D.C. Department of Employment Services

Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2022

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, William Dean, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Lewis Brown took roll call.

#### III. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: – William Dean, Burt Barnow and Erica Jones

**SAFF ATTENDEE:** Lewis Brown, Ashley Williams, Kenneth Walker, Dr. Marla Wyche, Michael Taylor in addition to all OAIT staff

**POTENTIAL NEW ATTENDEES:** Taylor White and Christopher Riley

#### IV. DOES UPDATES:

Program Manager, Lewis Brown introduced Ms. Taylor White from New America and Mr. Christopher Riley from Power Design, Inc. who were recently appointed to serve on the YAAC as new members. Mr. Brown also noted that Ms. White and Mr. Riley are awaiting official confirmation. Both Ms. White and Mr. Riley expressed their appreciation of their appointments and look forward to serving and contribute to the YAAC initiatives. Associate Director, Ashley Williams also expressed congratulation and welcomed the potential new members.

Mr. Brown also informed members of the YAAC that he received official notification from Ms. Elizabeth Debarro of her resignation as a member of the YAAC. Mr. Eric Jones also noted that he had conversation with Ms. Debarro's resignation due to her workload at current organization.

Program Manager, Lewis Brown reported out that the youth apprenticeship initiative in partnerships with IDEA Charter High School was in its final week of training, in which 13 of the original 15 seniors are completing their training and headed for direct entry to registered apprenticeships. Mr. Brown noted the completion rate was a successful 87%.

Program Manager Lewis Brown also noted that the Office of Apprenticeship had recently finalized the awaited MOU in partnership with Ballou Senior High School to further expand youth apprenticeship initiatives for high school students. Twenty (20) high school seniors will be enrolled in pre-apprenticeship training in the information technology field that also includes partnership with the D.C. Department of Human Resources. All seniors completing the training will receive direct entry to registered apprenticeships as District government employee apprentices.

Program Manager, Lewis Brown reported out that DOES' first Youth Apprenticeship Awareness Week (YAAW) was a huge success that featured three (3) events, starting with an in-person Apprenticeship Signing Day held at the Martin Luther King Library. Mr. noted that 13 youth apprentices enrolled in pre-apprenticeship training in the electrician trade were recognized for their success in completing the final weeks of training and headed for direct entry to registered apprenticeship with electrical contractors under the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) apprenticeship program. Senior officials from the Department Labor and Mayor Bower administration were present and gave greetings. Mr. Brown also noted several apprenticeship sponsors, including Chairman Dean were also present at the event.

Mr. Brown noted that the Office of Apprenticeship hosted was a virtual Parents and Community Night event on May 04, 2022, to inform parents and members of the community in attendance, on the apprenticeship system and available apprenticeship opportunities for out-of-school youth and adults. Information was also provided on the Apprenticeship Office efforts to expand youth apprenticeship initiatives in partnerships with DC Public Schools and DC Public Charter Schools that will result to direct entry to registered apprenticeships.

Mr. Brown noted that the last YAAW involved a virtual demonstration of the electrical trade task area performed by graduating seniors enrolled in the youth pre-apprenticeship training initiative at IDEA Charter High School. The participating youth pre-apprentices showcased the skills and knowledge they learned during the training period of the program. Mr. Brown also noted how impressive they youth were in explaining the various steps and purposed of the demonstration.

Program Manager, Lewis Brown reported that the several staff members of the Office of Apprenticeship attended the first in-person ESAC conference held in Atlantic City, New Jersey since the pandemic and was well attended, including

representatives from Maryland and Virginia. Mr. Brown noted that several States such as Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey were very active in youth apprenticeship initiatives in partnerships with local high schools and participating apprenticeship sponsors.

Lastly, Program Manager, Lewis Brown reported out that the Office of Apprenticeship had coordinated a pre-apprenticeship training initiative for women in construction that had recently ended, in which 20 out of 26 women completed the training. Mr. Brown also noted that the Office of Apprenticeship will be hosting a sponsors' hiring event for the women, who successfully completing the training. Chairman Dean and Mr. Eric Jones requested information on the hiring event. Program Manager, Kenneth Walker noted that he would the link to recruitment event to the YAAC members.

Associate Director, Ashley Williams noted that she would like to have a separate meeting with YAAC members to discuss the YAAC 2021 report.

**V. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3: 38 PM.

